

REMARKS

Claims 11-25 and 27-33 are pending in the application. By this paper, claims 11 and 25 have been amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 11-25 and 27-30 are respectfully requested.

Amendment to Claims 11 and 25

To expedite prosecution of the application, claims 11 and 25 have been amended to cancel the feature that at least two operating elements operate or are structured and arranged such that screen displays a different type of value in at least one of the fields of the screen. The amendments to claims 11 and 25 were made to comply with the request made by the Office Action. Accordingly, the amendments to claims 11 and 25 should be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116 (b). Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the amendment to claims 11 and 25.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings stand objected under 37 CFR § 1.83(a). The Office Action states that the drawings do not show the newly introduced feature of claims 11 and 25, i.e., that the operating elements “operate such that the screen displays different types of configuration in at least one of the fields of the screen.” To expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended claims 11 and 25 to cancel the objected feature. Applicant believes that the objection to drawings is overcome. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawing is respectfully requested.

Rejection to Claims 11-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 11-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action asserts that the feature of claims 11 and 25, that the operating elements “operate such that the screen displays different types of configuration in at least one of the fields of the screen” is unclear. The Office Action further asserts that the feature of claims 11 and 25 contradicts the description, “If the operation elements are activated, however,

the configuration remains unchanged and only the values of the parameters in the selected parameters are changed” (hereinafter, referred to “Description”).

The specification on page 8, lines 5-22 clearly describes how screen displays different types of configuration in at least one of the fields of the screen. The Description cited by the Office Action is taken out of context from the specification (*see* page 8, lines 5-22) and does not contradict the description on page 8, lines 5-22 that screen displays different configurations in at least one of the fields of the screen. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant amended claims 11 and 25 to cancel the feature, “screen displays a different type of value in at least one of the fields of the screen.”

Applicant believes that the rejection to claims 11-33 is overcome. Withdrawal of the rejection to the claims 11-33 is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

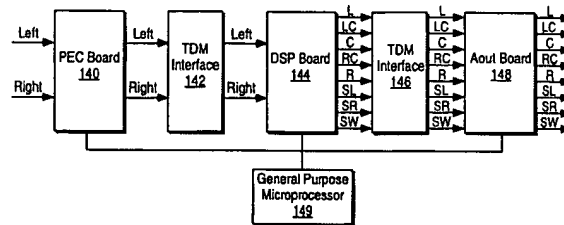
Claims 11-16 and 19-24

Claims 11-16 and 19-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,359,632 to Eastty et al. (“Eastty”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,859,631 to Bergman et al. (“Bergman”), U.S. Patent No. 6,438,241 to Silfvast et al. (“Silfvast I”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,818,941 to Embree (“Embree”). The Office Action asserts that Eastty, Bergman and Silvast I do not disclose the feature of claim 11, “wherein the computer is operable to assign the different types of configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen.” However, the Office Action asserts that Embree teaches this feature of claim 11 at Fig. 3, items 144, 146, 148-149, and Col. 6, lines 1-10. The Office Action’s assertion is incorrect.

Claim 11 recites a device for setting values for processing of audio signals. The recited device includes a computer “operable to assign different configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen.”

Embree discloses a digital signal processor for decoding a surround sound format. Embree discloses a general purpose microprocessor 149 communicating with PEC board 140, DSP board 144 and Analog out board 148. *See* Embree, Col. 6, lines 1-10 and Fig. 3 below. The microprocessor 149 performs rudimentary control and configuration operations and executes the user interface along with processing performed by DSP board 144. *Id.*

FIG. 3



Embree does not teach or suggest that “the computer is operable to assign the different types of configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen.” Embree merely discloses that the microprocessor 149 performs configuration operations.

The Office Action further asserts that Embree may be combined with Eastty, Bergman and Silvast I because Embree discloses producing a digital surround sound. As discussed in Amendment E filed on March 10, 2005, Eastty, Bergman and Silvast I disclose a panel/surface for controlling audio parameters with control elements. Applicant submits that production of the digital surround sound in Embree does not provide any motivation or suggestion to combine Embree with other references. Further, even assuming that there may be any suggestion to combine Embree with other references, none of the references teaches or suggests the recited feature of claim 11, “the computer is operable to assign the different types of configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen,” either alone or in combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-16 and 19-24 depend from claim 11 and therefore include all of the features of claim 11 plus additional features. For at least the reason discussed above with regard to claim 11, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to these claims also be withdrawn.

Claim 17

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastty, Bergman, Silvast I, Embree and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,959,610 to Silvast (“Silvast II”).

Claim 17 depends from claim 11 and therefore includes all of the features of claim 11 plus additional features. None of Eastty, Bergman, Silfvast I, Embree and Silfvast II teaches or suggests the recited element of claim 11, “the computer is operable to assign the different types of configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen,” either individually or in combination. For at least the reason discussed above with regard to claim 11, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection to claim 17 also be withdrawn.

Claim 18

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastty, Bergman, Silfvast I, Embree and U.S. Patent No. 5,786,811 to Jaeger et al. (“Jaeger”).

Claim 18 depends from claim 11 and therefore includes all of the features of claim 11 plus additional features. None of Eastty, Bergman, Silfvast I, Embree and Jaegar teaches or suggests the recited feature of claim 11, “the computer is operable to assign the different types of configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen,” either individually or in combination. For at least the reason discussed above with regard to claim 11, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection to claim 18 also be withdrawn.

Claims 25 and 27-30 and 33

Claims 25, 27-30 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastty in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,339,166 to LeBrat et al. (“LeBrat”), Silfvast I and Embree.

Claim 25 recites an audio signal processing apparatus. The recited apparatus comprises a computer “operable to assign different configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen” and an algorithm library coupled to the computer and to a signal processor.

As discussed above in connection with claims 11-24 and Amendment E filed on March 10, 2005, none of Eastty, LeBrat, Silfvast I and Embree teaches or suggests the recited feature of claim 25, either individually or in combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 25 is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-30 and 33 depend from claim 25 and therefore include all of the features of claim 25 plus additional features. For at least the reason discussed above with regard to claim 25, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to these claims also be withdrawn.

Claims 31-32

Claims 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Embree in view of Silfvast I, Eastty, LeBrat and U.S. Patent No. 5,801,942 to Nixon et al. (“Nixon”).

The Office Action admits that none of Embree, Silfvast I and LeBrat discloses the recited feature of claims 31-32. However, the Office Action asserts that Nixon teaches a new algorithm selected from the algorithm library based on the configuration.

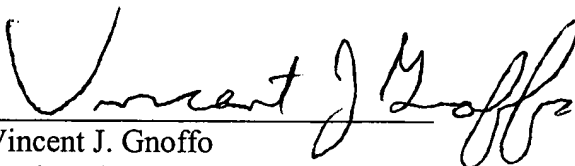
Nixon discloses a process control system that includes a user interface supporting multiple IEC-1131 control languages and user-selection from among the control languages. In particular, Nixon discloses a function block editor 2240 and a function block library 2342 in Fig. 22. The function block editor 2240 is implemented in a function block execution engine. The function block execution engine executes function block control algorithms using the function block library 2342.

Nixon does not disclose the recited feature of claims 31-32, "the new algorithm is selected based on the configuration defined by the at least one of the operating elements." Further, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Nixon with other references. Nixon discloses the process control system, whereas other references disclose a control panel/surface for audio parameters with control elements and the signal processor for decoding the surround sound format.

Thus, none of Embree, Eastty, LeBrat, Silfvast I and Nixon teaches or suggests the recited feature of claims 31-32, either individually or in combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 31-32 is respectfully requested.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Vincent J. Gnoffo
Registration No. 44,714
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200